

~~Top Secret~~

PCLAND

~~little change in Soviet military activity in
and around Poland.~~

Political Activity

The main focus of attention this week will be on the Polish Supreme Court, which will rule tomorrow whether to register an independent farmers' organization as a union. A lower court ruled in October that farmers are not employees and cannot form a union. ~~[redacted]~~

Several representatives of the farmers' organization, which claims more than 500,000 members, have threatened that farmers would cut off the delivery of food to state outlets if registration is not granted. Even if such a strike were called, there probably would be little immediate impact. ~~[redacted]~~

Farmers are difficult to organize and fewer than 10 percent of the private farmers belong to the organization. Additionally, the farmers have said they do not want to seriously disrupt the flow of food to the cities and would probably sell their supplies on the private market. ~~[redacted]~~

--continued

Approved for Release
Date AUG 1999 Top Secret

3

29 December 1980

126
HHO

~~Top Secret~~

Difficulties between the farmers and regime could continue for some time and sour the delicate political atmosphere. Solidarity leader Walesa has expressed his support for the farmers' cause, but he is currently urging that negotiations and not strikes be used to settle disputes. Stronger Solidarity support for farmers some time in the future, however, cannot be excluded.

Coal Production

As a result of production declines and diversion of coal to the domestic market, the volume of coal exports in 1980 could be one-fourth below the 1979 level. The Polish press reports that this could cost Poland some \$600 million in planned hard currency receipts.

With coal exports will remain the main hard currency , the Polish press admits that in 1981 the volume of coal exports could be some 30 to 40 percent below the 1979 level.

~~Top Secret~~